(b) whether Government is also aware that most of these people depends on agriculture;

(c) if so, whether Government will propose to make agriculture more remunerative and employment oriented to achieve millennium development goals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to World Development Report, 2008, persistent concentration of poverty in rural areas in the transforming developing countries can be addressed by increasing agricultural productivity and generating rural non-farm employment. To sustain and revitalize agriculture sector, Government of India have taken several steps. These steps, *inter-alia* include launching of two new schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture sector during XI Plan; credit policy to increase flow of institutional credit to agriculture sector and provision of crop loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakhs to farmers at reduced interest of 7% per annum. Besides, a number of initiatives plan schemes and programmes, including initiatives announced in the Budget 2008-09 have been taken/ initiated for development of agriculture sector.

Scientific method for agriculture

1581. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Agriculture Innovation Project aims at utilizing science for agricultural economy orientation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) as the agricultural land is shrinking, due to industrialization and developments, what is the role of this project in increasing crop in less land to keep India self-sufficient in food production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The overall objective of the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) is to utilize science to facilitate accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture in support of poverty alleviation and income generation.

The project contributes to research on production to consumption system, to demonstrate how rural income and employment generation could be enhanced through post-harvest processing, value addition and export promotion.The project will also support research on sustainable rural livelihood security in some of the 150 most backward districts of the country identified by the Planning Commission. The emphasis here will be on on-farm research for improving and developing the most suitable farming system and allied farm activities in the less favorable environment, region and groups so that the livelihood of the rural poor improves through assured food, nutrition, employment and income. These efforts will be further strengthened by supporting research on basic and strategic research in the priority areas.

(c) The role of National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) is to increase cropping intensity wherever possible, use best production and processing practices, link production

with marketing, combine crop production with animal husbandry, fisheries and other remunerative farm and non-farm enterprises, all aimed at increasing production to keep India self sufficient in food production.

Crisis in FACT

1582. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector fertilizer companies including FACT are encountering serious problems due to price hike and non-availability of sufficent quanity of raw materials like Sulphur;

(b) whether it is also a fact that various units of FACT are either closed or on the verge of shut down owing to the above reasons;

(c) whether Government has taken/proposed to take comprehensive measures to overcome the crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) FACT had been facing financial problems in the last few months due to steep increase in the prices and non-availability of sufficient quanity of raw materials like Sulphur and Phosphoric acid. The caprolactam plant and ammonium sulphate plant had to be closed temporarily. To compensate the losses of the company and to sustain its operations, Government has approved a one time grant of Rs.200 crore to FACT. The amount is being released to the company.

Demands of Bhopal tragedy victims

1583. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the Bhopal gas survivors' 850 km. padyatra from Bhopal to Delhi started in February, 2008;

(b) what progress has been made by Government in meeting the demands after their 1st Padyatra in 2006;

(c) the details of plans, to pin liability on Union Carbide Corporation for the contamination of groundwater and land in and around the factory site in Bhopal;

(d) the steps taken by CBI to extradite former Union Carbide Chairman Warren Anderson to face trial in India; and

(e) the steps taken by CBI to enforce Union Carbide Corporation's appearance in the criminal case in the Bhopal Chief Judical Magistrate's court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Based on the sanction by the Government of India in April, 2006 for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the State Government of Madhya